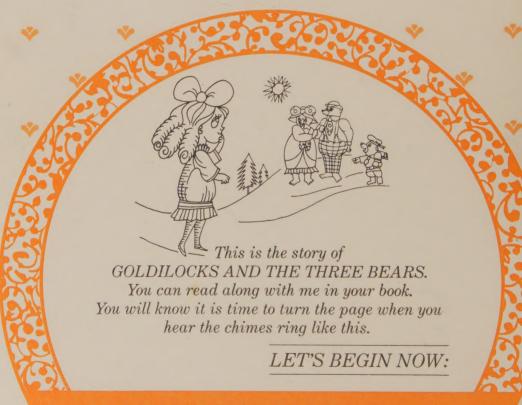






COLDILOCKS THE THREE BEARS



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Once upon a time there were three bears. A great, big Papa Bear, a middle-sized Mama Bear, and a tiny, little Baby Bear. The three bears all lived in a log cabin, deep in the forest, on the side of a mountain.



One morning Mama Bear cooked a kettle of porridge for breakfast. She filled a great big bowl for Papa Bear, a middle-sized bowl for herself, and a tiny little bowl for Baby Bear. Papa Bear sat down and tasted his porridge. "This porridge is too hot, Mama Bear! Let's go for a walk in the forest while we wait for the porridge to cool." So the three bears put on their hats and coats and went out.

Soon after the bears left, a little girl found the cabin in the woods. She was called Goldilocks because she had long, blonde hair.



Goldilocks had disobeyed her mother's orders and gone into the deepest part of the forest, and now she was very tired and hungry. She knocked on the door of the cabin. "Is anybody home?" There was no answer. "I'll try the latch." The door swung open, and she went in.



Inside the cabin she saw three wooden chairs and a long table set for breakfast.

Goldilocks sat down to rest in Papa Bear's great big chair. "Ow, this chair is much too hard." Then she sat down in the Mama Bear's middle-sized chair.





At last she sat down in the Baby Bear's tiny little chair. "Ah, this chair is not too hard and not too soft. It's just right." But Baby Bear's chair wasn't very strong and when Goldilocks leaned back it broke — all to pieces!

Then Goldilocks saw the porridge cooling in the bowls. She was very hungry, so she tried the Papa Bear's great big bowl. "Ooh, this porridge is much too hot." Then she tried the Mama Bear's middle-sized bowl. "Brr, this porridge is much too cold."





Finally Goldilocks tried the Baby Bear's tiny little bowl. "Ahh, this porridge is not too hot, and not too cold. It's just right." So she ate it all up.

By this time Goldilocks was very, very tired. "I'll look around the cabin for a place to lie down and take a nap." She climbed upstairs and found three wooden beds. There was a great big bed for the Papa Bear, a middle-sized bed for the Mama Bear, and a tiny little bed for the Baby Bear.



Goldilocks sat down on Papa Bear's great big bed. "Ow, this bed is much too hard!" Then she tried the Mama Bear's middle-sized bed, but when she sat down on the mattress, she sank into the middle! "Oh, my! This bed is much too soft!"





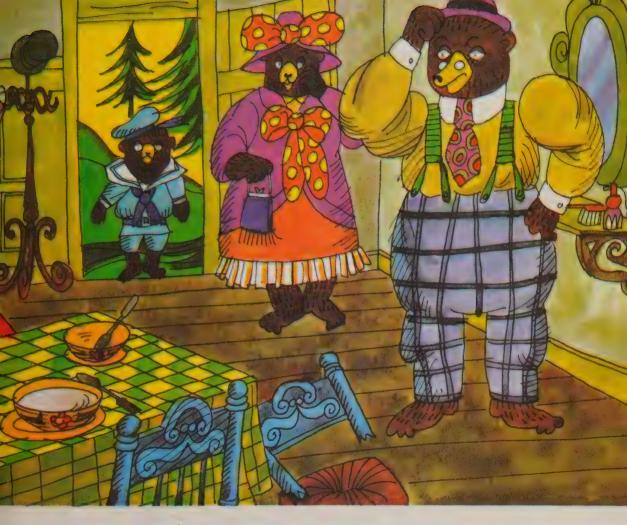
Then she tried the Baby Bear's tiny little bed. "Ahh, this bed is just right. And I'm so very, very tired."

As soon as Goldilocks lay down, she fell fast asleep.





By this time the three bears thought their porridge should be cool, so they came back from their walk in the forest. As they came up the front steps of their log cabin, Mama Bear gasped. "Look, Papa Bear, the door to the cabin



is open!" They all hurried inside.

Papa Bear growled. "Someone's been here while we were out walking, Mama Bear, and they have been sitting in my chair!"



Mama Bear ran to her chair. "Oh, my goodness, Papa Bear. Someone's been sitting in my chair, too!"

Then suddenly Baby Bear cried out. "Someone's been sitting in my chair, too, and they broke it all to pieces!"





Next the bears looked at the bowls on the table. Papa Bear roared. "Someone's been tasting my porridge!" Mama Bear lifted her bowl. "Someone's been tasting my porridge too!"





Baby Bear ran from his broken chair and grabbed his porridge bowl. "Someone's been tasting my porridge, too, and they ate it all up!"

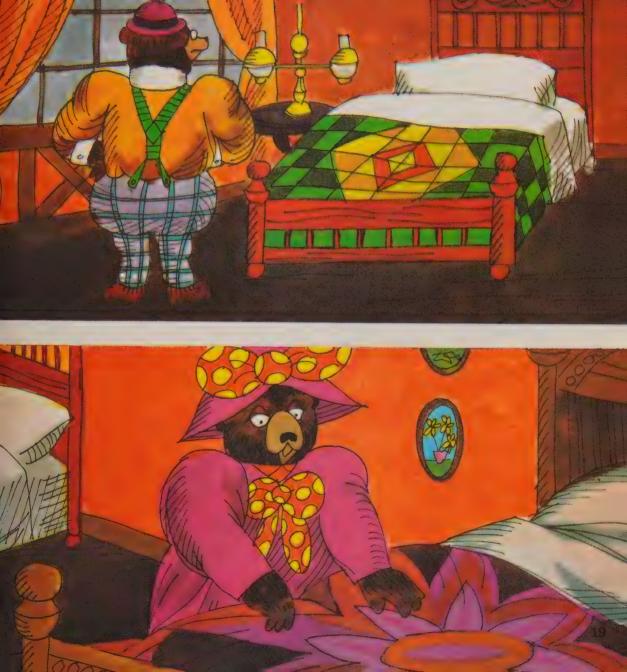


Papa Bear was worried.

"We had better check the rest of the house to see what else our uninvited guest has done."

So the three bears all went upstairs. Papa Bear grumbled. "Just as I thought. Someone's been sleeping in *my* bed."

Mama Bear looked at the spot where Goldilocks had fallen onto her big soft mattress. "Someone's been sleeping in my bed, too."





Suddenly Baby Bear cried out at the top of his voice. "Someone's been sleeping in *my* bed, too, and here she is!"

Baby Bear's cry woke up Goldilocks. She looked up and saw a great, big Papa Bear, a middle-sized Mama Bear, and a tiny, little Baby Bear staring down at her. "Oh, my goodness! Who are you?"





Papa Bear roared in his rough, gruff voice. "We're the three bears and this is our home. What are you doing here?" Goldilocks shivered. "Oh, I'm sorry I ate your porridge without asking." She jumped out of the bed. "Oh, my! I should have listened to my mother!"



Goldlocks ran down the stairs, out of the cabin and straight home just as fast as she could, without looking back. And she never, never disobeyed her mother again.

The great, big Papa Bear fixed Baby Bear's chair. The Mama Bear cooked up some more porridge and the three bears lived happily ever after.





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